

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for  
**Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame, Board of Governors**  
Created by Section 43-1-601, *Tennessee Code Annotated*  
(Sunset termination June 2013)

1. Provide a brief introduction to the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame and its Board of Governors, including information about the board's purpose, statutory duties, staff and administrative attachment.

*The Hall of Fame was created by an act of legislature in 1937 for the purpose of bestowing a lasting honor to Tennesseans who have "rendered distinguished service in the science and art of Agriculture." Currently, there are 13 inductees, who are commemorated with a bronze plaque of their likeness and achievements. The Agricultural Hall of Fame is housed in the Tennessee Agricultural Museum at Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville and viewed by some 25,000 visitors each year. Some of the most notable members include Governor Andrew Johnson; Dr. H. A. Morgan, entomologist, university president and TVA board member; and, D. M. Clements, first vocational agriculture teacher in the nation. The most recent member, the late Congressman Ed Jones, was recognized for his years of service as commissioner of agriculture and most notably for his influence of landmark federal legislation establishing farm conservation programs. All inductions are made posthumously.*

*By law, the board is charged with "supervising" the Hall of Fame. The Board is empowered to:*

- *promulgate rules and regulations governing acceptance and admissions to the Hall*
- *induct members by a majority vote of the board*
- *accept gifts, bequests and awards which become property of the Hall of Fame*

2. Provide a list of current board members and describe how membership complies with 43-1-602, *Tennessee Code Annotated*. Are there any vacancies on the board? If so, what steps have been taken to fill the vacancies?

*The nine member Hall of Fame board is composed of three members appointed by the Governor for terms of two, four and six years, and six ex-officio members as follows:*

1. *Commissioner of Agriculture (Julius Johnson)*
2. *Vice President (Chancellor), U.T. Institute of Agriculture (Dr. Larry Arrington)*
3. *Dean, U.T. Extension (Dr. Tim Cross)*
4. *State Consultant, Agriculture Education (Steve Gass)*
5. *President, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (Mr. Lacy Upchurch)*
6. *State Master of the Grange (Ms. Judy Sherrod)*

*Appointed members included:*

*Rose Ann Donnell, Jackson, TN*

*Johnny Templin, Cumberland Gap, TN*

*Brent Carter, Fayetteville, TN*

3. Does membership include a member who is sixty years of age or older? A member who is a racial minority? A member who is female?

*The board is geographically representative of the state and includes citizen members, members who are 60 years or older and one female member. The board does not currently have a racial minority.*

4. What per diem or travel reimbursement do members receive? How much was paid to board members during fiscal years 2011 and 2012?

*Activities of the board require a minimum of travel expenses for board members which are paid by the Department of Agriculture. The board last met in January 2011. Per Diem was offered but no expenses were claimed by board members as there was no lodging and minimal travel involved for most members.*

5. What were the board's revenues (by source) and expenditures (by object) for fiscal years 2011 and 2012?

*There were no revenues reported by the board, and meeting expenses of less than \$200 were paid by the Department of Agriculture. Any cost incurred in producing a biographical sketch and bronze plaques of inductees are assumed by the sponsoring organization or individual.*

6. How many times did the board meet in fiscal years 2011 and 2012, and how many members were present at each meeting?

*The board only meets as required to consider nominations. Nominations are considered posthumously for individuals who have made a lasting contribution to agriculture. The board met once during this period on January 6, 2011 to consider the nomination of the late Congressman Ed Jones. All nine members were present.*

7. Is the board subject to Sunshine law requirements (Section 8-44-101 et seq., Tennessee Code Annotated) for public notice of meetings, prompt and full recording of minutes and public access to minutes? If so, what procedures does the board have for informing the public of its meetings, who keeps the official minutes of board meetings and what steps are taken to make the minutes available to the public?

*The Hall of Fame is on record and for public display at all times. Minutes are maintained by the Department of Agriculture and made available upon request. As the board meets, the Department of Agriculture follows standard procedures for giving public notice of such meetings including media advisories to all daily newspapers and website postings.*

8. What were the major accomplishments of the board during fiscal years 2011 and 2012?

*The board met January 6, 2011 to consider the nomination of the late Congressman Ed Jones, who had served as commissioner of agriculture and was longtime ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee in U.S. Congress. He was an early advocate and innovator of livestock genetics and authored landmark federal legislation establishing today's farm finance and soil conservation programs. The board voted unanimously to induct Congressman Jones, with ceremonies to commemorate his induction planned for fall 2012.*

9. Has the board promulgated rules and regulations as required by Section 43-1-604, *Tennessee Code Annotated*?

*No official rules have been promulgated. However, guidelines used by the board are explicit in the TCA 43-1-604 and include: 1) inductions be considered only after an authentic written record of achievement be prepared, 2) inductions be made by majority vote of the board, and 3) minimum eligibility be a period of 5 years from the date of nominee's death. Previous boards have exercised their authority to be more restrictive in considering nominations.*

10. Section 43-1-607, *Tennessee Code Annotated*, requires the board to "prepare a report to be delivered to the chair of the House Agriculture Committee and the chair of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Agriculture Committee by February 15 of each odd-numbered year" providing information regarding the activities of the board for the previous two years. Are those reports being made as directed? If so, please attach copies of the last two reports. What other reports does the board prepare on its operations, activities and accomplishments and who receives the reports?

*A report of the board's activities is provided as often as the board meets. A record of meeting minutes and a biographical sketch for the most recent nominee are included.*

11. Does the board have any policies in place to address potential conflicts of interest by board members, board employees, or other state employees who work with the board in any capacity? If yes, please describe.

*Because of the limited scope and authority of the board, there are no formal policies specific to this board's function currently in place.*

12. What actions has the board undertaken to assure that the public is aware of Tennessee's Agricultural Hall of Fame? How many members have been inducted into the Hall of Fame during the past five years?

*All commemorative plaques honoring inductees are on display at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum in Nashville, the official site of the Hall of Fame which has some 25,000 visitors annually. Duplicate plaques are on display at The University of Tennessee's Morgan Hall in Knoxville and the home county of the inductee. Ceremonies commemorating the induction of the late Congressman Ed Jones are planned for the fall 2012 in Nashville and at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Previous to Mr. Jones, the last induction was in 1997.*

13. Describe any items related to the board that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

*No changes are recommended at this time.*

14. Should the board be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the board endanger the public health, safety or welfare?

*The Department of Agriculture recommends the continuation of the Agricultural Hall of Fame Board to highlight the outstanding contributions of Tennesseans who have made a lasting contribution to agriculture on a state and national level. Tennessee is the first state in the nation*

*to do so. Discontinuing the board would be a disservice to the state's number one industry and would debase the achievements of all who have been previously recognized.*

15. Please list all board programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance and, therefore are required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Include the amount of federal funding received by program/activity.

[Federal financial assistance includes:

- (1) Grants and loans of Federal funds,
- (2) The grant or donation of Federal Property and interests in property,
- (3) The detail of Federal personnel,
- (4) The sale and lease of, and the permission to use (on other than a casual or transient basis), Federal property or any interest in such property without consideration or at a nominal consideration, or at a consideration which is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale or lease to the recipient, and
- (5) Any federal agreement, arrangement, or other contract which has as one of its purposes the provision of assistance.

*28 C.F.R. Sec. 42.102(c)]*

[The term recipient means any State, political subdivision of any State, or instrumentality of any State or political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, or organization, or other entity, or any individual, in any State, to whom Federal financial assistance is extended, directly or through another recipient, for any program, including any successor, assign, or transferee thereof, but such term does not include any ultimate beneficiary under any such program.

*28 C.F.R. Sec. 42.102(f)]*

***If the board does receive federal assistance, please answer questions 16 through 23.  
If the board does not receive federal assistance, proceed directly to question 22.***

*This board does not receive federal assistance.*

16. Does your board prepare a Title VI plan? If yes, please provide a copy of the most recent plan.
17. Does your board have a Title VI coordinator? If yes, please provide the Title VI coordinator's name and phone number and a brief description of his/her duties. If not, provide the name and phone number of the person responsible for dealing with Title VI issues.
18. To which state or federal agency (if any) does your board report concerning Title VI? Please describe the information your board submits to the state or federal government and/or provide a copy of the most recent report submitted.

19. Describe your board's actions to ensure that board staff and clients/program participants understand the requirements of Title VI.
20. Describe your board's actions to ensure it is meeting Title VI requirements. Specifically, describe any board monitoring or tracking activities related to Title VI, and how frequently these activities occur.
21. Please describe the board's procedures for handling Title VI complaints. Has your board received any Title VI-related complaints during the past two years? If yes, please describe each complaint, how each complaint was investigated, and how each complaint was resolved (or, if not yet resolved, the complaint's current status).
22. Please provide a breakdown of current board staff by title, ethnicity, and gender.

*This board has no dedicated staff. Staff support is provided by the Department of Agriculture on an as-needed basis.*

23. Please list all board contracts, detailing each contractor, the services provided, the amount of the contract, and the ethnicity of the contractor/business owner.

*There are no contracts currently in place under the authority of this board.*